



Highway 51/29 Corridor Project

WisDOT highlights Highway 29 west interchange progress

Transportation District 4
August 2001
Volume 1 Number 2

Current project schedule:

Value Planning Initiative
August—October 2001

Public Information Meeting
November 2001

What is the Highway 29 west interchange?

The Highway 29 west interchange study (see map on reverse side) includes the interchange between Highway 29 west of Wausau and Highway 51, and the Sherman Street interchange. The study includes evaluation of alternative interchange configurations to improve access between Highways 51 and 29 and access to the local road system such as Highway 52 (Stewart Avenue) and Sherman Street. Additionally, WisDOT will evaluate options for improving travel on the local road system between the east and west sides of Highway 51.

What will the Highway 29 west interchange look like when it is constructed?

That is unknown at this time. An alternative layout for this interchange was shown in the environmental document and displayed at previous public information meetings.

Contact information:

Douglas Ross, WisDOT
Transportation District 4
1681 Second Avenue South
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495
Phone: (715) 421-8334
Fax: (715) 421-8076

Bruce Ommen
Ayres Associates
3433 Oakwood Hills Parkway
PO Box 1590
Eau Claire, WI 54702-1590
Phone: (715) 834-3161
fax: (715) 831-7500

The previous alternative had several undesirable design features:

- The travel speed on the ramps between Highway 29 and Highway 51 was 45 mph, which is too low for this type of ramp.
- The ramps entering and exiting Highway 51 are closely spaced and make entering or exiting Highway 51 difficult.
- Access to the Wausau Central Business District does not access directly onto Highway 51 (Stewart Avenue).
- The staging for construction is difficult and will result in significant delays to travelers during construction.

Transportation District 4 is currently developing alternatives for this interchange. A Value Planning Team has been organized to develop and review interchange alternatives. Three or four alternative interchanges are planned for public review and comment at a public information meeting currently scheduled in November 2001.

Project e-mail address: 51-29team@dot.state.wi.us

*Please contact the
representatives listed above if
you have questions or
concerns about this project*

What is the Value Planning Team?

The Value Planning Team has 40 members consisting of local government officials, business owners, and residents from the area along with members from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration and environmental agencies.

The team members were selected to provide a variety of people with different interests. The diversity of team members provides an opportunity to view the desirability of interchange alternatives from different perspectives.



Division of Transportation Districts - District Four

1681 Second Avenue, P.O. Box 8021

Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495-8021

Phone: (715) 421-8300

A newsletter published by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to keep citizens informed.

The Value Planning Team will develop a list of issues that need to be addressed during the evaluation of the interchange alternatives. A few examples of the issues the team may review are:

- The travel speed on ramps between Highway 29 and Highway 51
- Improving access to and along the local road system
- Access to the Wausau Central Business District
- Impacts to existing commercial and residential properties
- Accommodations for bicycle and pedestrian traffic
- Access to the hospital/insurance complex area

The goal of the Value Planning Team is to rank interchange alternatives and provide a recommendation for a preferred alternative.

A series of four day-long workshops will be held between August and October to define issues, develop alternative interchange designs and evaluate these alternatives.

Who will decide the configuration of the Highway 29 west interchange?

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation will make the final selection for the configuration of the Highway 29 west interchange after they consider input from the local units of government, the results of the Value Planning Team, and the public comments obtained at the public information meeting. If the comments are favorable, we anticipate selecting an interchange configuration in February 2002.

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation is committed to constructing a Highway 29 west interchange that meets the needs of the community. Your involvement is welcomed and we encourage you to attend the next public information meeting — anticipated in November 2001. We appreciate your comments and will consider them during the final selection of the interchange configuration.

